

Being a rural Missouri resident, I join the roughly 43.6% of Missourians that live in a rural community. Knowing how important a rural community is in Missouri is obviously substantial. However, knowing how important the internet is to those communities often times, over looked.

Given the average commute time for a Missourian is 23.8 minutes; (according to the 2000 census report) imagine what effect it would have on the rural dwellers to not have this commute time factored in. Out of my area's roughly 1431 people, over 517 of those people have a commute time of 50 minutes or greater. Imagine what effect high speed internet would have on these people. Not only would the commuters be able to spend more time with their families- which Missourians pride themselves on being highly family oriented, it would also help save an average of 47.6 minutes per day just on commuting. From a personal standpoint, our community at Summerset Lake- sits roughly 3 miles Southwest of DeSoto, Missouri- one of our states many rural communities. DeSoto has DSL connectivity while our lake community does not. Being only 3 miles out of the city limits seems a bit odd to not provide us with high speed internet connectivity. Some, including myself, given high speed connectivity would telecommute nearly everyday, not only saving us time, but saving us money- allowing for more of that money to go to local Missouri businesses that our rural communities survive and depend on.

Being a rural family, I purchased my home for the affordability that my region offers. However, when purchasing the home, I gave considerable thought to not buying in the DeSoto area because of the lack of internet access. In fact, I have lived in St. Louis City prior to moving to DeSoto primarily because of the ease of access to high speed internet; and the ability to easily telecommute.

Please consider those of us who live in Summerset Lake in the upcoming plans for expansion of your DSL connectivity. My and the surrounding families thank you in advance.

Sincerely,